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HINTS ON CARPETING.

AMONG all the articles of furnishing there is none that has a more important influence upon the decoration, the comfort and the economy of our homes than the floor coverings. It may as truthfully be said that there are some peculiarities of the matter which almost always escape the thoughts of the buyer and the seller.

There are a few points which may be fairly claimed as absolute requisites.

A carpet should form a suitable background for the furniture to be placed upon it, and in color and character of decoration it should accord with the objects with which it is to be associated, and with the particular apartment in which it is used. A carpet suitable for a parlor would be out of place in a chamber, and the same fact holds good as between all other rooms.

The coloring should always produce a sense or feeling of completion, as if each part belonged to and was necessary to every other part. To produce this there must be a perfect harmony, and an absence of any large masses of bright and positive colors. A harmony of tints and hues can be produced in any fabric; even those that allow only the use of a few colors, and in the higher grades, which allow the use of many tints, there should be a rich and finished effect, which should be glowing or radiant or "bloomy" as opposed to dull, quiet or heavy. This effect will be the result of using bright and warm colors, rather than cold or neutral hues. A light-colored carpet can be as well made of rich hues and tints as of cold ones, and carpets that are "washy" or faded in appearance are always composed of cold or neutral tints, and are objectionable to every sense.

The coloring scheme of a carpet should never include pictorial representations of anything, not even a bunch of flowers; a large bouquet may make a bright and effective centre-piece, but it will not remain long in use before it will be covered with a table or a rug, to hide it from the eyes that have got tired of seeing its realistic pretensions in a place entirely foreign to its character. As for the repetition of a picture in a carpet design, nothing could be in worse taste. Who ever thought of hanging two or more pictures of the same subject in the same room?

The color and pattern of decoration should preserve the flatness of appearance that would naturally belong to anything on which we are to walk. Of course nobody would



BRUSSELS CARPET AND BORDER, BY MISS FLORENCE M. KNOWLES, OF THE LOWELL SCHOOL OF DESIGN.

ever think of attempting to walk over a pavement on which was distributed a quantity of stairways, arches, dogs, warriors and the other things, with the similitudes of which our ancestors decorated their rugs and carpets. The question very naturally arises, why should such things be thus introduced as a decoration, in violation of every rule of "the eternal fitness of things?"

It is very desirable that a carpet should be soft and yielding to the foot. There is a certain sense of rest to the feet and limbs in the contact with a substance different to the touch from the hard, unyielding pavements of our out-of-door experiences. It seems fitting that our homes should afford a feeling of restfulness even to the sole of the foot. The absence in hard-wood and tile floors of this soft and restful characteristic of carpeting, undoubtedly has much to do with the comparatively moderate use of such floors, and indeed they are rarely used unless covered with a profusion of rugs. The greatest softness to touch in a carpet is the result of closer weaving and deeper pile, and is only found in the better qualities. Softness, therefore, means also greater durability, and although more expensive at the first, it also means true economy. The Oriental carpets are pre-eminent for this quality of softness, and are correspondingly luxurious, and domestic imitations are particularly pleasurable on account of their successful production of this feeling, although, alas! their colors are only "fast" in the rapidity with which they disappear.

The quality of softness may be produced or augmented by the use of linings, either of paper or of felt, and even ordinary newspapers are better than nothing. Many of these linings are so treated that, to a certain degree, they are obnoxious to insects, and are economical on this account as well as because they decrease the wear of the carpet.

In the purchasing of carpets and floor coverings, it would be much better if the color and general character of the furnishings (if the room to be covered be already furnished) should be told to the salesman, who will thus be enabled to give good advice, provided he understands his business, and is honestly desirous of doing the best thing for his customer.

The Latest Novelty in Curtains is in Turcoman, a narrow design running down the sides, and the bordering at the bottom in Moorish, arabesque or antique designs, being three-quarters of a yard deep.